

JOHN LONG.

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JANUARY 13, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. TRACEY, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9666.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9666) entitled "A bill to correct and amend the military record of John Long, late private Company H, Thirty-first Missouri Regiment Infantry Volunteers," beg leave to report:

The soldier was enlisted and sworn into the service of the United States as a recruit for Company H, Thirty-first Regiment Missouri Infantry Volunteers, at Patterson, in Wayne County, Mo., on August 21, 1862, by Capt. James S. McMurtry, recruiting officer, and was mustered into service on the 10th day of September, 1862. The soldier served with the company, doing all the duties of a soldier, until November 24, 1862. During this three months' service the soldier drew his arms, uniform, and rations, answered rollcall daily, did drill duty daily while in camp, and guard duty just as all the members of said company did; that as soldier, with the company, marched from Patterson to Carondelet, Mo., and return, covering a distance of more than 300 miles.

The company encamped at Ironton, Mo., on its return march from Carondelet, and the soldier while there and while doing drill duty got extremely warm and was exposed to a heavy rain storm, and he thereupon took a severe cold which settled in his eyes. He remained with the company doing duty until the last of October, when he was reported unfit for duty. His eyes had become greatly aggravated by camp duty and camp life. On the 24th of November (the company being on the move, having in the meantime returned to and encamped at Patterson) the soldier's eyes were so bad that the regimental surgeon advised that he go home till his eyes got better. The soldier thereupon went home and never rejoined his company, for the reason that his eyes continually grew worse, and he is now and has been for many years totally blind; that soldier prior to his enlistment lived for years in Wayne County, near where the surgeon directed him to go home and remain until his eyes got better.

Your committee are of the opinion that soldier's answer to roll call daily for nearly three months, his duty performed daily, in drilling and standing guard, his drawing of his rations, uniform, arms and equipments, and when all this was done, under the immediate supervision and command of Capt. James S. McMurtry, captain of said Company H, Thirty-first Regiment Missouri Infantry Volunteers, who

was the recruiting officer, who recruited and swore in the said soldier, prove conclusively that the soldier was a private in Company H, Thirty-first Regiment Missouri Infantry Volunteers, duly enlisted, sworn, and mustered into service in said company, and that he is entitled to the relief sought in the bill.

Your committee, however, offer the following amendment to the bill: Amend by striking out all of said bill after the word "sixty-two," in line 11.

Your committee recommend that the bill with the amendment do pass.

